

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 T-03 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /141 W

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R 170410 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIAGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8779

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

ZNE/ AMCONSUL DANANG 6034

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT, VS

SUBJECT SOUNDINGS OF A PNM/ WFP/ VNQDD/ CAN DAI/ HOA HAO/ CATHOLIC
POLITICAL ALLIANCE

REF SAIGON 3922

1. PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS LOOKING TOWARD THE FORMATION OF NEW
ALLIANCE TO QUALIFY UNDER DECREE LAW 060 CONTINUED ON THE
AFTERNOON OF MAR 14 AT A MEETING ATTENDED BY TRAN QUOC BUU,
CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKER- FARMER PARTY; FORMER GENERAL ALM
THANH GUYEN, CHAIRMAN OF HOA HAO VETERANS ASSOCIATION;
COLONEL HO DUC TRUNG, FORMER TAY NINH PROVINCE CHIEF, AND
EX- COLONEL DANG QUANG DUONG, BOTH OF THE CAO DAI- BASED
REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY; NHAM MINH TRANG, LOWER HOUSE
DEPUTY, AND VIET HUY, BOTH OF THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST
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MOVEMENT; LE TRONG QUAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE CATHOLIC- BASED NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION FORCE; AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOA HAO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF TRINH QUOC KHANH. VNQDD (UNIFIED FACTION) LEADERS DID NOT ATTEND BECAUSE OF PARTY ACTIVITIES IN MR I BUT HAVE ATTENDED PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THIS GROUP. PROFESSOR HUY OF THE PNM WAS ALSO UNABLE TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF OBLIGATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH HIS THEN IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FOR PARIS WHERE HE WILL ATTEND THE GVN/ PRG TALKS.

2. SOURCES AT THE MEETING TOLD AN EMBOFF MAR 15 THAT TRAN QUOC BUU REAFFIRMED HIS STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE DECOMRACY PARTY AND HIS DEISRE TO TAKE PART IN AN ALLIANCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES. BUU SAID THAT THE ALLIANCE TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT THE POLLS MUST NOT BE TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE GVN. HE SAID THAT THE NLF WILL BE PRESENTING ITSELF TO THE DLECTORATE AS LEFT, PROGRESSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC, AND THAT THE NEW ALLIANCE SHOULD SEEK TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE WHICH ALSO IS LEFT, PROGRESSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC BUT WHICH IS NOT COMMUNIST DOMINATED.

3. AT THE MEETING, ASSIGNMENTS WERE GIVEN FOR THE DRAFTING OF AN ALLIANCE MANIFESTO, STATUTES AND INTERNAL RULES, TAKING INTO THE CONSIDERATION THE NEED FOR MEETING THE MAR 27 DEADLINE UNDER DL 060. ONE NAME FOR THE NEW GROUP- ING GIVEN FAVORABLE COMMENT WAS SOCIAL- DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (LIEN MINH DAN CHU XA HOI). FINAL DECISIONS ON THESE AND OTHER MATTERS WILL BE MADE AT A MEETING MAR 18.

4. BUU MET SEPARATELY WITH COLONELS TRUNG AND DANG OF THE REPUBLICAN- SOCIALIST PARTY AND WITH HOA HAO GENERAL LAM THANH NGUYEN ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAR 13 TO DISCUSS THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES UNDER WHICH THE ALLIANCE WOULD OPERATE AND THE DIVISION OF WORK THEREIN.

COMMENT:

5. IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR SOME TIME THAT NEIGHER THE WFP NOR THE PNM ALONE COULD MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF DL 060, BUT BOTH BUU AND HUY HAVE STATED IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS THAT THEY EXPECTEDNDO LEAD NEW PARTIES WHICH WOULD QUALIFY UNDER THE LAW. IT HAS BEEN GENERAL KNOWLEDGE THAT THE PNM AND WFP WERE SEEKING ALLIES AMONG HOA HAO, CAO DAI AND CONFIDENTIAL

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CATHOLIC ELEMENTS, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST FIRM INDICATION THAT

THEY HAVE BEEN TALKING TO EACH OTHER. THE PNM HAS BEEN BADLY HIT BY DP RECRUTING, AS MUCH OF ITS STRENGTH WAS AMONG GVN CIVIL SERVANTS. SOME WFP POLITICIANS, TOO, HAVE BEEN FEELING DP PRESSURE AND MAY JOIN THAT PARTY RATHER THAN FOLLOW BUU INTO A NEW NON- ADMINISTRATION GROUP; LOWER HOUSE DEPUTY HUYEN NGOC ANH RECENTLY TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT HE AND NGUYEN BA CAN, WFP SECGEN AND LH CHAIRMAN, WOULD JOINTLY PROPOSE THAT BUU DISSOLVE HIS PARTY TO ALLOW ITS POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO MERGE WITH THE DP.

BUNKER

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